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Ludger Müller-Wille
Linna L. Müller-Wille

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Vignette: Glaucous gull (Laris hyperboreus, in Eskimo naujaa) above Naujaa Inlet east of Repulse Bay, N. W. T. September 2, 1973

Data and information in this booklet were collected by the authors with the help of the Inuit and other people of Repulse Bay between August and December 1973. This work was part of a project on technological and socioeconomic change in circumpolar regions including besides Repulse Bay longer visits to the Dene of northern Saskatchewan and the Sabme(Lapps) of northern Finland. This undertaking was supported by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Association) to which we are thankfully indebted for generous understandin of the often difficult situation inherent in the work.
This booklet was put together as a way to express our thanks to the people of Repulse Bay for the nice time we and our children Ragnar, Verena and Gwendolyn spent among them. We are sorry we were not able to write in Inuktituk.

Linna and Ludger Müller-Wille
Bonn, Germany June 1975

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Second edition. (First edition printed in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. 1974.)

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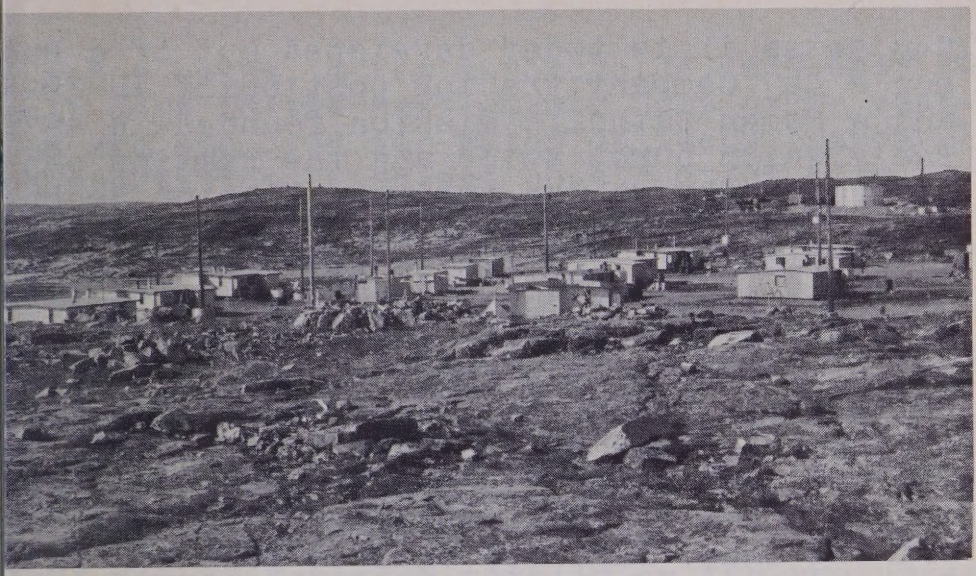
June 1975



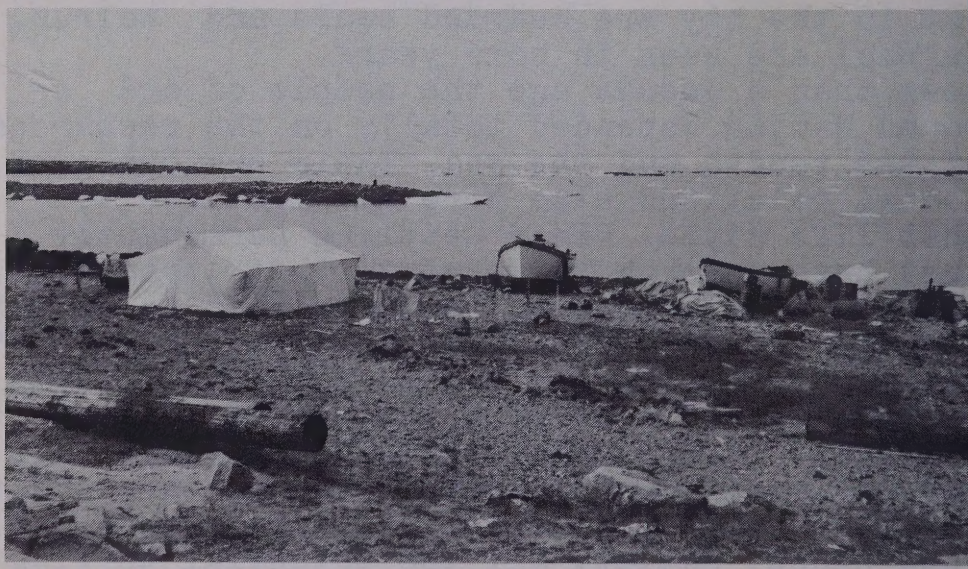
o the casual visitor landing for a short half our or so on the wind swept gravel airstrip, epulse Bay (above on August 11, 1973) is just nother arctic settlement, plunked down on the undra by some government planner from Ottawa, haracterless all the houses the same "coffins" some glorified) as in all the other such towns e has seen, and arranged in a seemingly non- ensical manner with little relation to the ountryside. Another place to pick up an ex- ellent ivory or soapstone carving at the Co-op arving shop at the airstrip. But to the very ew who stay to live and learn, Naujaa gradual- y reveals its beauty, at once harsh and gentle, ts diversity, the warmth of its people. aujaa, named by the Inuit "glaucous gull" af- er a large rookery nearby, lies on the north- rn shore at the far western end of Repulse Bay 66° 32' N, 86° 15' W) from which it takes its nglish name. Its second Inuit name is Aivilik, hich means Walrus Place, because of the wal- uses which frequented the area in earlier ays. The settlement rises from the shores to hill, the old cemetery, 70 ft above sea level.

Naujaa as it is today developed out of a Hu-
son's Bay Company trading post built in 192
and a Roman Catholic mission founded in 193
The mission burnt twice and the remains can
be seen today on the hill and Mission Beach
Inuit from surrounding areas (Wager Bay, Me-
ville Peninsula, Committee Bay, Pelly Bay a
northern parts of Southampton Island) gradu-
ally moved to the place and eventually sett-
led permanently. The first shacks, a few o
which still stand, were near the mission or
the HBCo. at the western end of town. But
was not until 1963, when the Federal Govern-
ment started a housing program, that the re
maining Inuit families came to Repulse Bay.
The settlement grew from 145 in 1959 to 23
Inuit and 14 "outsiders" in August 1973. Th
population is very young - 60 % are under
years old.
Since 1963 the Government has built 63 build
ings for the Inuit in the settlement. These
include residential houses, school, power
house, workshops, warehouses, oil tanks, com
munity hall, freezer, administration office
and transient centre. Besides these there ar
a nursing station, the HBCo store, R.C. mis-
sion, and Naujat Co-op store with handicraft
enterprise. Communication with the "outside"
is established by local radio sets. The
Voisey Airfield and the radio beacon have
been maintained since 1969. Scheduled flight
by Twin Otter or DC 3 come in from Fort Chur
chill, Manitoba once a week. These bring
mail and supplies for the local shops as wel
as passengers. Charter flights also arrive
irregularly and for a variety of purposes.
Ships bring goods once a year in September o
October depending on the ice conditions.
Local means of transportation today are snow
mobile, seldom dog team, motorcycles, motor
boat. In October 1973 there were 60 "kitut",

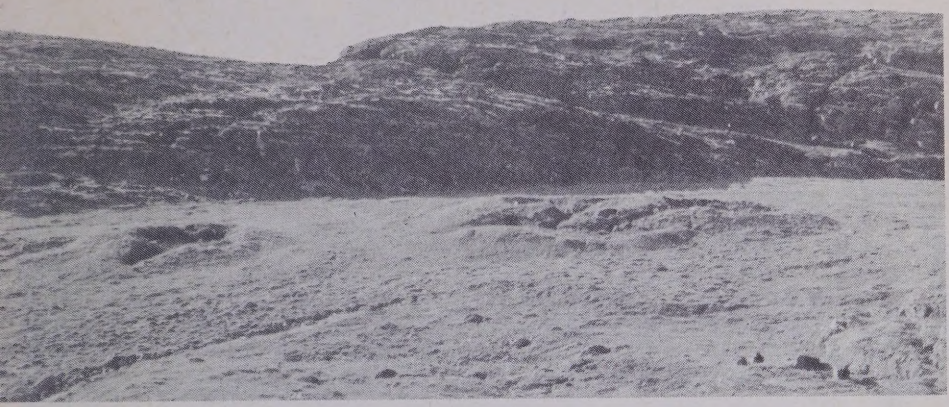
31 motor boats, a few motorcycles, and only 60 Inuit dogs in the settlement. Some other vehicles are employed for water delivery, garbage transportation, road and construction work. Naujaa is in a rocky tundra landscape and constantly windswept. In and near town scurry lemmings, ptarmigan and occasionally a snowy owl. Farther into the tundra are a few wolf, fox, arctic hare, caribou, polar bear, and at times a wolverine. Looking toward the bay one may see common seals and white whales. Farther out in the bay are bearded seals and walrus. Narwhal are seen in some years.

Less than a decade ago the people of and around Naujaa depended totally on the resources of the tundra and the sea. Their customs and social relations also were accommodated to that life style. Since settling permanently they have somehow to maintain their traditional way of life but at the same time to adjust this to the "modernization and westernization" superimposed from the South. Today the people of Repulse Bay rely on a variety of sources for their income and livelihood. There are a few permanent salaried jobs with the Government, the HBCo., and the Co-op. But since these few jobs cannot satisfy all the potential working force, hunting is still predominant. Even those with full time jobs supplement their meat supply and income with weekend hunting. The main animals hunted or trapped are common seal (1,300 in 1973), bearded seals (30), white whales (23, no narwhals in 1973), and caribou (some 600), fox (varying according to cycle). These are needed both for home consumption and for sale. Fewer numbers of walrus (10), polar bear (a quota of 16 each year), wolf and wolverine are taken. Arctic hare and ptarmigan are hunted for home use. Hunting is done on snowmobiles and with motor boats. In

1973 50 hunters were involved in taking ani
mals. They owned some 160 rifles of differen
caliber and shot some 50,000 rounds with the
Fishing by spear, net and rod in open water
and through the ice is quite popular and en
joyed by everybody. Arctic char and inland
lake trout are the most common. The resource
are good enough for home and local consumpti
provided for by the Co-op or community freez
which keep the food fresh.



Kringayark's summer tent on Mission Beach o
August 8, 1973. The new style of living in
frame houses causes many inconveniences for
people who hunt for a living. In the summer
some families set up camp on the beaches ne
the settlement where they can easily launch
their freighter canoe and clean the taken an
mals. Two of the four whaling boats in the
settlement are seen on the beach. The bay is
often filled with drift ice even during the
month of August. Here high tide takes away t
ice blocks.



mile east of Repulse Bay is the ancient com-
lex Nauja, 700 to 800 years old, with 21 hou-
es built of sod, stone, and whale bones. It
ies 40 ft above present sea level. Mathiassen,
Dane, and Olsen, a Greenlander, excavated
hese in 1922. Things they found, tools, car-
ings are in the National Museum in Copenhag-
n, Denmark. Nearby are many sites of earlier
amps, tent rings, meat caches, sod houses
nd inukshuks.

Sealift in September and October is a busy time for Repulse Bay. Crates of food, construction material and hundreds of barrels of airplane fuel are unloaded. Empty barrels seem to become a major landmark in the countryside. Recycling seems to be too expensive. The regular fuel supply is now transported to Repulse Bay by tanker and stored in huge tanks that can hold two years supply for the community.
The earth cellar in the background was built by the Catholic mission in the fifties and was used for storing caribou meat during the summer.
Persons from left to right: Angotingoar, Tegumiar, Oksokitok, Pat Moore, Milortok, Marius Tungilik on September 1973.

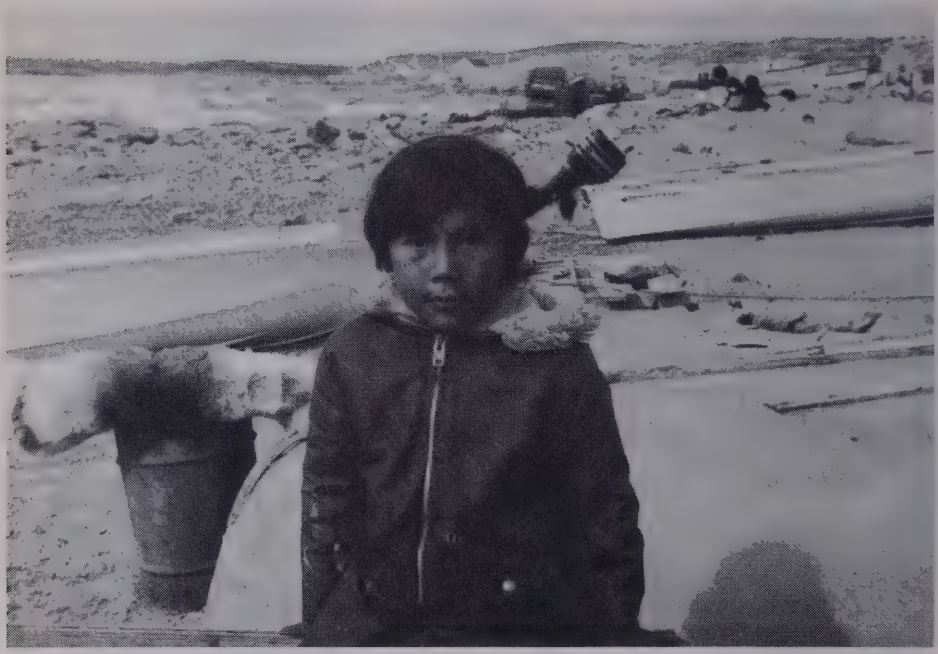
When planes arrive many people turn out to get the news and meet their friends. People from Naujaa often exchange visits with relatives and friends in Pelly Bay, Hall Beach and Igloolik. Nowadays the local people depend on air transportation to cover such great distances. Overland travel by snowmobile presents enormous problems with fuel transport in winter. The communications situation in most of the North is very sensitive. The commercial airline companies usually settle their conflicts at the expense and inconvenience of the Inuit and other inhabitants.

below: People waiting for a shipment of goods and groceries to be unloaded for the Co-op store. Maybe there is ice cream, too!

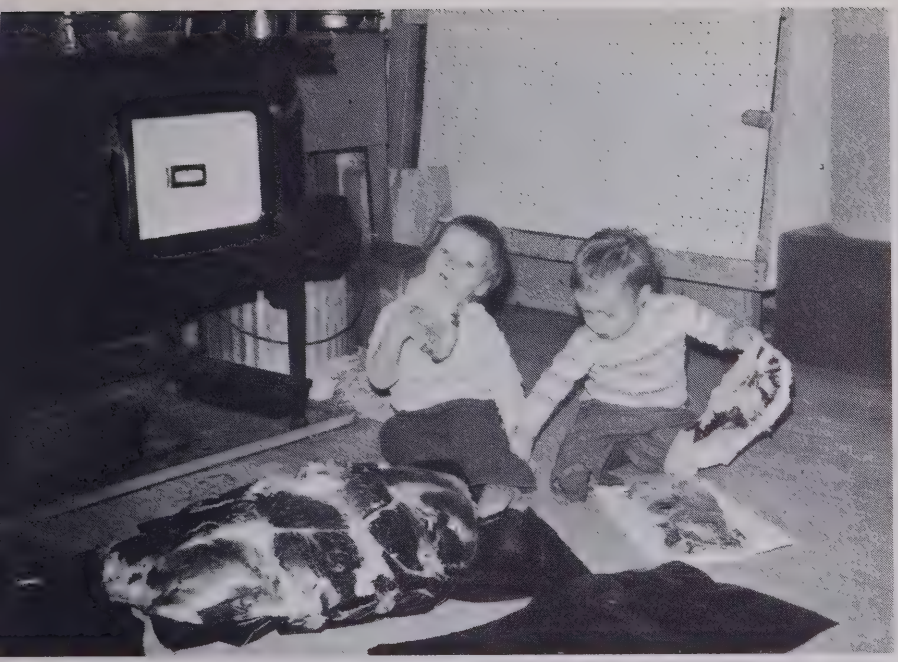
at right: Paul Mablik (left) and his two younger friends explore the beach in the settlement. The picture was taken by one of their friends. August 7, 1973

Rosalie Nanorak (left) and Ragnar Müller-Wille concentrate on their toys at home. December 2, 1973

During the first grades children learn English. Later they learn to write the syllabics of Inuktituk. It is fortunate that most parents in Naujaa speak their own language with their children and do not try to speak English.



Youngsters like to go on fishing and hunting trips with their parents. This boy just came back from a boat trip. The school also takes classes camping, fishing and hunting.



The twins, Verena and Gwendolyn Müller-Wille, enjoy a feast of frozen caribou meat and tunnu which was brought from a hunting trip at Kareark by their father, David Nuluk and J. Tinashlu. December 2, 1973

In spring 1973 three wolf cubs were caught alive and taken to the settlement. This is Tavo's wolf which was tied up at his house. People like to have young animals around the house for children to learn more about them. The three wolves were later taken to zoos in the South. Local Inuit think it might be nice to keep these animals in a small zoo near the settlement. August 20, 1973

David Nuluk's dogs are about the last to be put in front of a sled (komitik). Here they are chained down at the beach in the settlement and usually fed seal meat. In summer most of the sled dogs stay on islands a few miles out of Repulse Bay. In October 1973 there were 62 Inuit (sled) dogs and 14 Kabloonak (pet) dogs in the settlement.

Although dog sleds are a very reliable means of transportation motorization inevitably has to take its course in the North.

October 14,1973

at left: On October 1 four brothers - Putulik, Mablik, Siatsiak and Michel - left by boat to hunt polar bears. They went east of Hurd Channel (Subluk), some 90 miles from Naujaa, and shot five polar bears, two walrusses and some caribou. Here their catch is unloaded from the boat on to a trailer.

October 8, 1973

above: Almost everybody tries to get out on the sea to hunt seals during the summer. Tuktudjuk had a successful day; nine seal skins are drying in front of his house. Seal meat and fat are still sometimes eaten and the skins are used for shoes and mitts. Young women do not learn to make these anymore since factory made shoes are available. Most seal skins are for export to the southern fur market.

September 13, 1973

The gas mixture is an important factor in using an outboard motor. Here Kringayark uses the barrel of his gun to stir the fuel and oil to the right mixture.
There were 31 boats and motors in use during the summer of 1973. Trips were mostly within the Bay of Repulse, but some went as far as 100 miles from the settlement in their open freighter canoes. October 21, 1973

Travelling in an open boat is not always pleasant. Rain, snow and wind are often hazards during the trips. Here Kringayark takes his dogs back to the settlement from the islands where they stayed all summer.

October 21, 1973

Fuel consumption for one outboard motor reached on the average 110 gallons during the summer of 1973, between July and late October. Repairs are usually rather seldom, the odd spark plug, and costs are therefore lower than with snowmobiles in winter.

Snow houses are still built regularly during hunting trips in the winter. The means of transportation is the snowmobile, which came to Repulse Bay in 1967. The snowmobile wears out fast and has to be replaced almost every year if used heavily in the countryside. The average fuel consumption for a snowmobile is 225 gallons per driving season, October to June, or a distance of 1,500 miles.

This campsite was situated at Angmaluktok Lake about 70 miles northeast of Repulse Bay where David Nuluk and Johannesey Tinashlu set fox traps and a fish net under the ice besides hunting caribou.

(above and at right) November 29, 1973

Here both men repair a track wheel in the camp at Angmaluktok. The snowmobiles, as seen to the left, caused some problems during this trip. One snowmobile had to be left behind and the return trip was finished with three persons on one vehicle and sled along with the broken motor.
Snowmobile repairs have to be done frequently; the average expense was some ℔ 300 during the winter 1972/73. Sleds are self-made; the cost of material (wood, steel runners and rope) runs up to ℔ 100. A sled behind a snowmobile would last, depending on the care, a few years. In October 1973 there were 52 sleds, 18 of those from the pre-snowmobile days.

David Nuluk with wounded caribou at a cliff between Angmaluktok and Kareark.

(above and at right) November 29, 1973

Caribou meat is a staple food for the people of Repulse Bay today. Only for the past few years have the Melville Peninsula caribou herds come close to the new settlement. In 1973 hunters could shoot them as close as 10 to 20 miles from their houses almost all year round. The meat is of high quality, the hides are used for clothing and the antlers for tools and carvings.

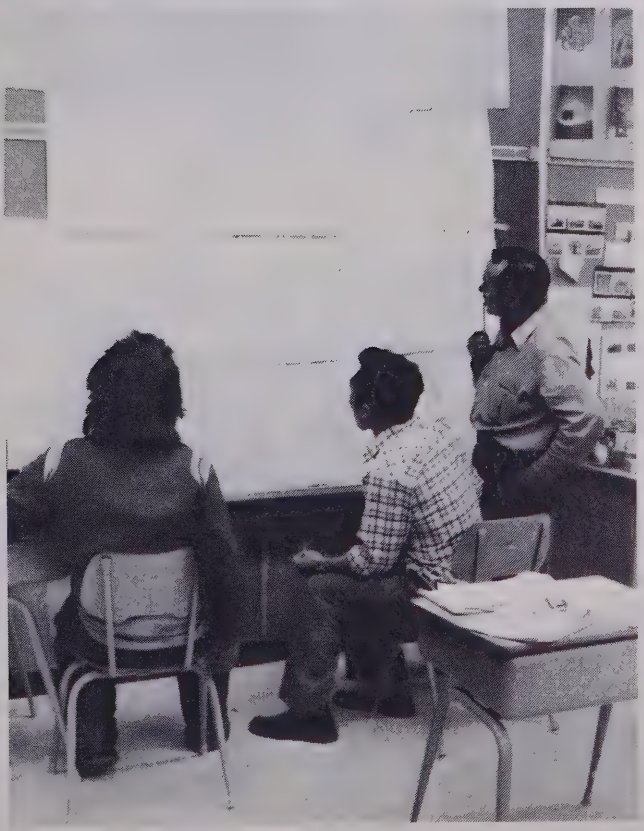
In recent years there has been a surplus of caribou meat in the Repulse Bay region. Efforts to export meat to other Inuit places where there are no caribou have made some

). Nuluk and J. Tinashlu prepare for butchering a killed caribou.

progress. The possibilities of the development of controlled selective hunting for an export market should not be neglected in the near future. This could be a small, but local source of additional income for the Inuit. This certainly could lead to avoiding waste of valuable meat resources. More information on caribou movement is needed.

A modern snow house has problems that can be solved with kitchen towels.
At Angmaluktok, November 29, 1973

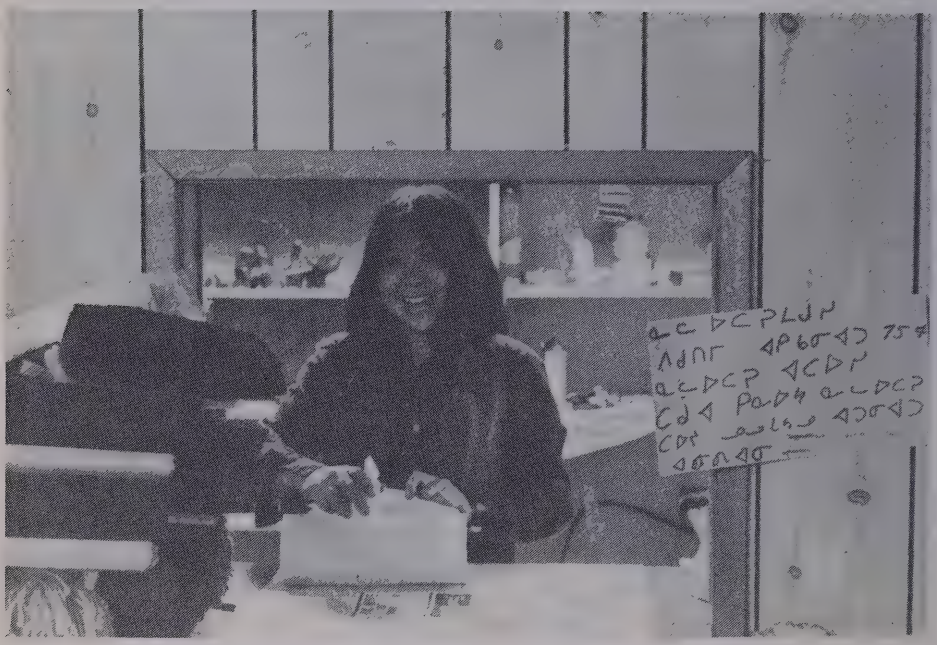
The younger and older generations of Inuit are concerned to maintain the knowledge of their own land (at right above is Anigorslirk Lake in October). Below, in the school, some men discuss the place names for the Melville Peninsula transferring their knowledge to maps so that it is kept and handed on to their children. Here are Kringayark, Tinashlu and Tagornak.



People shopping in the Co-op store shortly before Christmas 1973.

There are two stores at Repulse Bay, The Hudson's Bay Company and Naujat Co-op Ltd., both are retail stores and also deal in fur. The Co-op differs to the extent that it encourages sales of local products (carving, meat, fish, whale skin, etc.). These items are marketed either locally or outside the settlement.

Like Lucy Tavo (above) and Marius Tungilik and Simona Kringayark (below) Inuit fill available jobs in the stores and Government Institutions in Naujaa.



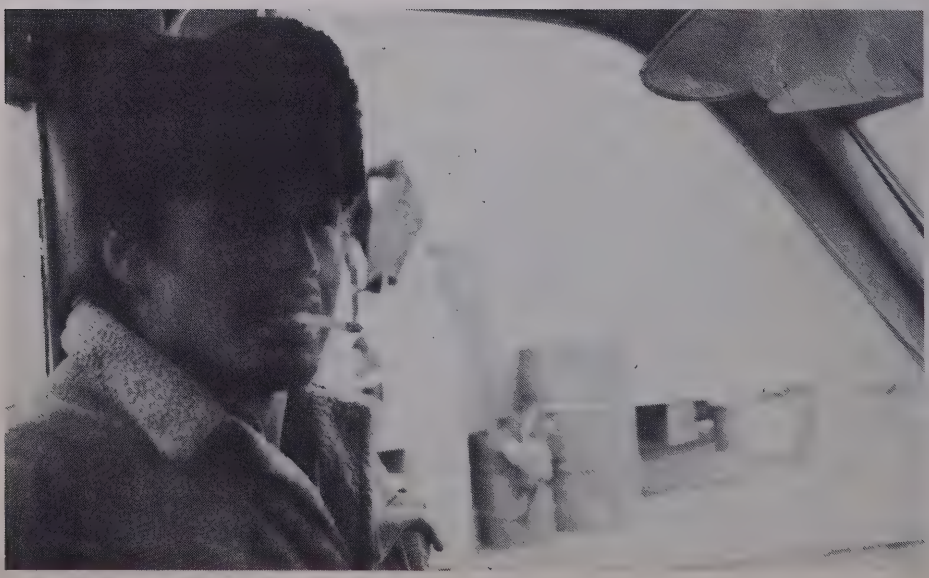
Simona Kringayark is in charge of the carving section of Naujat Co-op. Local carvers hand in their art work at this counter and are paid an advance payment in cash. The Co-op ships the carvings to the South for sale and later gains are distributed to the producers.

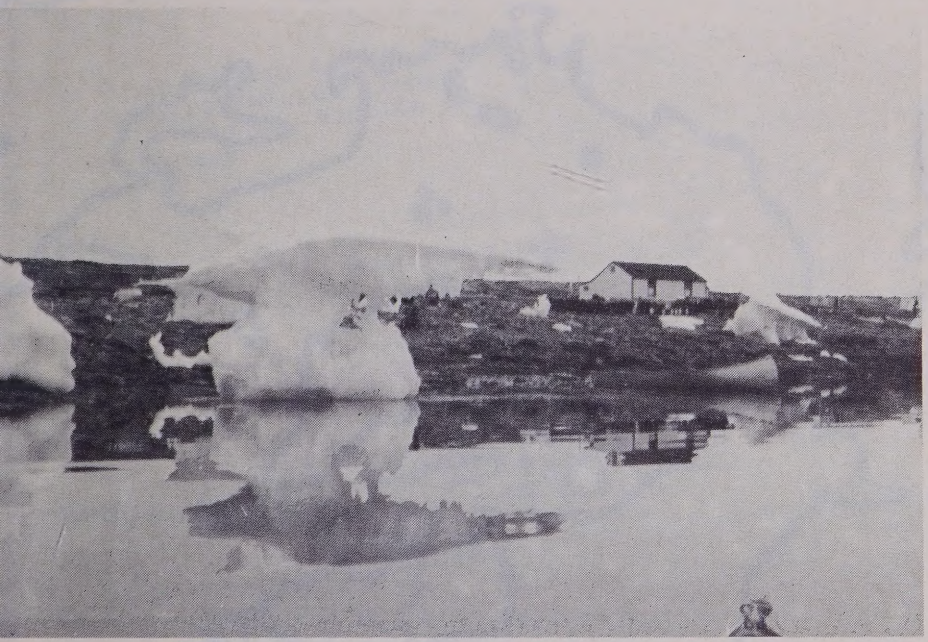
December 7, 1973

Art work by unknown carver of Repulse Bay, property of Naujat Co-op, October 1973.

The Inuit of Naujaa are known for their broad variety of carvings. The carving industry is certainly a very important factor in the local economy. Carvers are constantly searching for carving material: soapstone of different kinds and qualities is mined in various places up to 70 miles distant from Repulse Bay. Mining is usually done in late winter to facilitate transportation. Besides the stone caribou antlers, whale bone, walrus or narwhal tusks and teeth are collected as carving material. The Co-op carving shop at the airstrip displays the variety of local art work and handicraft.

Donat Milortok, making the rounds, takes care of the unpleasant, undisposable and problematic side of new modern arctic settlements. September 10, 1973





Mission Beach at Naujaa: the low tide left some huge ice blocks stranded on the beach for a few hours, embodying continuous change.

August 4, 1973

Naujaa/Repulse Bay

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